

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USNMR SHAPE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4198

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CY, TU, US
SUBJ: KYPRIANOU TOUCHES BASE WITH ATHENS BEFORE LEAVING
FOR THE US

1. CYPRIOT PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S OVERNIGHT
VISIT TO ATHENS (MAY 19-20) FOLLOWED THE PATTERN OF
PREVIOUS SUCH OCCASIONS. TOUCHING BASE WITH THE GREEKS
BEFORE GOING ON TO THE US, KYPRIANOU MET WITH PRIME
MINISTER CARAMANLIS AFTER WHICH BOTH LEADERS PUBLICLY
CLAIMED "AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS" ON THE HANDLING OF THE
CYPRUS QUESTION. KYPRIANOU TALKED ON THE TELEPHONE WITH
PRESIDENT TSATSOS AND RECEIVED OPPOSITION LEADER PAPAN-
DREOU WHO ALSO PLEDGED CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE
CYPRIOT STRUGGLE. KYPRIANOU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER
ROLANDIS WHO HELD A SEPARATE WORKING SESSION WITH HIS
GREEK COUNTERPART, GEORGE RALLIS.

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2. IN HIS STATEMENTS TO THE MEDIA, KYPRIANOU
BROKE NO NEW GROUND. HE EFFUSIVELY THANKED CARAMANLIS
AND THE GREEK PEOPLE FOR THEIR ON-GOING
SUPPORT OF THE GOC AND THE CYPRIOT PEOPLE. CALLING
THE TURKISH PROPOSALS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, HE PRO-
MISED TO RAISE THE CYPRUS ISSUE AGAIN BEFORE THE UNGA.
HE NOTED THE STRUGGLE WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE BOTH

TO THE GREEKS AND TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHO SUFFERED FROM THE BURDENS OF THE OCCUPATION. HOWEVER, HE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY NEW "FOREIGN INITIATIVES," CALLING INSTEAD FOR "A READICAL REVISION OF TURKEY'S POLICY". HE ALSO REITERATED HIS CALL TO MEET WITH TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN NEW YORK.

3. IN AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CYPRIOT MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL PELAGHIAS, WHO IS ALSO TRAVELLING WITH KYPRIANOU, AND EMBOFF'S CONTACT WITH GREEK MFA WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIAL, WE WERE TOLD THAT THE GREEKS CONTINUE TO BACK THE CYPRIOT POSITION AND THAT THERE MUST BE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT FROM THE TURKISH SIDE ON THE PROPOSALS FOR CYPRUS BEFORE THE INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS CAN RECONVENE. THE MFA OFFICIAL STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO INCLINATION BY THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE THE WHOLE STORY OF WHAT WENT ON DURING KYPRIANOU'S VISIT AND ARE CONTINUING TO DIG. WHEN RALLIS RETURNS FROM HIS CURRENT TRIP TO IRAQ, THE AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK AN OPPORTUNE OCCASION TO ASK ABOUT HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH ROLANDIS AND WHETHER THE GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAD INDICATED ANY FLEXIBILITY OF THEIR OWN DURING THESE MEETINGS.
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